



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

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HOGSETT PRESENTS NEARLY \$300,000 TO BENEFIT EVANSVILLE/VANDERBURGH COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT IN 2010

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, along with Eric Williams, Vanderburgh County Sheriff, and Brad Hill, Chief of the Evansville Police Department, today reported that in calendar year 2010, law enforcement agencies in Vanderburgh County received two hundred and eighty-five thousand five hundred eighty-one dollars and forty-nine cents (285,581.49) in additional financial support through forfeited assets from the United States Attorney's Office and according to the Federal Equitable Sharing Program.

When assets are seized from criminals and forfeited to the United States, federal forfeiture law permits the United States Attorney and the Department of Justice to share a portion of those forfeited assets with state and local law enforcement agencies that participated in the investigation that led to the recovery and eventual forfeiture of those assets.

In calendar year 2010, the Evansville/Vanderburgh County Drug Task Force received twenty-eight thousand two hundred twenty-seven dollars and eighty-eight cents (\$28,227.88).

Similarly, the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office received one hundred two thousand eight hundred twenty-one dollars and ninety-six cents (\$102,821.96).

And the Evansville Police Department received one hundred fifty-four thousand five hundred thirty-one dollars and sixty-five cents (\$154,531.65).

All of these funds were shared as the direct result of the participation of these agencies in having worked cases with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration. The United States Department of Justice oversees the Federal Equitable Sharing Program to accomplish the sharing of these assets.

One of the cases which resulted in each of the three local agencies receiving funds involved an investigator executing a search warrant at the Greyhound Bus Lines package delivery facility. A package with \$186,000 in it was recovered. The drug dealers in that case had been using the bus line to ship cocaine from Miami to the Evansville area, and to send money from Evansville back to Miami.

In a case that demonstrates cooperation between Indiana law enforcement agencies, officers from Evansville and Vanderburgh County law enforcement agencies helped out in a drug trafficking investigation in Vigo County. During the search of the residence of one of the drug dealers, a safe was found that had more than \$80,000 in cash in it. During the search of another residence, another safe was found with more than \$20,000 in it. These discoveries were in addition to the hundreds of pounds of marijuana and hundreds of grams of methamphetamine that were also found in these houses. More than \$18,000 of that money ultimately ended up coming to the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department and Evansville PD.

In another case, investigated in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, an Evansville drug dealer was using the proceeds of his illegal activity to buy real estate and build houses. During prosecution of the criminal case, four pieces of real property were liquidated and the proceeds of the sales were held by the IRS. Another house, in Indianapolis, was forfeited and has not yet been liquidated. Because that final piece of property has not yet been sold, we are not sure what the total forfeiture income will be, but it is safe to say that it will be several hundred thousand dollars, and should result in significant sharing with Evansville and Vanderburgh County law enforcement agencies.

Law enforcement is the principal objective of forfeiting the assets of persons involved in criminal activity. There is no better way to ensure that that objective is achieved, than by sharing those forfeited assets with the law enforcement agencies that were involved in the investigation, thereby helping to fund further law enforcement efforts. The U.S. Attorney's Office is pleased to be able to play a part in the Federal Equitable Sharing Program, and to assist the law enforcement agencies of Vanderburgh County in their work of protecting the people of Indiana.

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